

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



%Northland Public Library
300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Volume 12, Number 8—April 2002

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10 Issues: August—June

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Elissa Scalise Powell, CGRSSM

"Next time you're stuck, ask yourself a couple of questions. Do I seek out new ground that no one else has plowed? Am I using my research time to produce new evidence that no one yet knows about? Or am I copying, publishing, mailing around the same information that is already in print and in circulation. In short, am I a researcher or a recycler?"

The above quote came from a discussion on the Association for Professional Genealogists email list.

I suspect I am not alone in not having enough time to work on my genealogy. But with the limited time I do have I try *not* to cut corners by omitting the sources for my information. In the end it will *save* me (and those who come after me) time. To say right down to the volume and page number, where something is located is not only beneficial to the next person who wants to see the original source, but also to myself in evaluating that source. Knowing where it came from will influence how I weigh the evidence presented when a conflicting piece of information arises. (And it will!) Did the original author have first hand knowledge? Yes, then it is a primary source. No, then it was just hearsay, and it is a secondary source. Was this a transcription, abstract, or translation? Yes, then it could have errors and the original source should be viewed.

This is the part of doing genealogy I find the most fascinating. It is the thinking part once all the puzzle

pieces have been gathered. In fact your genealogy is much like a puzzle that someone has handed you with no picture on the box. Some of your pieces are missing and someone else's pieces are in your box. The fun is sorting this out and making a whole picture (with source citations!) so that it is believable, and not just fiction or someone's interpretation. If this is done clearly and consistently, then we would not have to waste *our* time on each new find on the internet or in a published book to determine if this information is true and where they got it from. We can then proudly say that we are researchers plowing new fertile ground in which future generations will blossom.

The reports are starting to come in: the 1930 census is fun to use with the right finding aids. At this time films are being used at the National Archives and its branches as most libraries need processing time to get the films into their cabinets. Indeed the Carnegie Library was saying something about July last I heard. So in this interim time you can prepare your list of families that you wish to research and their address where they lived in 1930. Consulting City Directories will help, but write down the addresses for a couple of years as you may need to know more than one if they happened to move around 1930.

Road trip anyone?

— Elissa

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WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues, May 7 - 7:30 pm - NHG Board Meeting -
UPMC Passavant Hospital cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tues., May 21 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting
Know Migration Trails to Trace Your Ancestors -
Elissa Powell, CGRS. (see article)

Thurs., April 18 - Lawrenceville Historical Society - 7:00 pm - Part II of a lecture on St. Francis Hospital's history. Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk Street, Lawrenceville.

Mon., April 22 - 7:00 pm - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - Paul Martin will present "Lincoln and Douglass - In Their Words." Held at The Babcock, Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA.

Thurs, May 9 - 7:00 pm - WPGS Monthly Meeting - Elissa Scalise Powell - "Sailing into the Sunset: Tips on Finding Your Ancestor's Passenger List". Carnegie Lecutre Hall, Oakland.

May 10-11 - New England Historic Genealogical Society and Western Reserve Historical Society - 6 lectures over the two days. Information: Education Department 888-286-3447, ext. 227, e-mail education@nehgs.org or WRHS at 216-382-7297 or e-mail at morgabd@msn.com.

May 14-18 - NGS Conference in the States 2002 - "An American Sampler, Milwaukee, Wisconsin". Check <http://www.ngsgenealogy.com>.

May 23 - 7:00 pm - Perrysville Historic Night, sponsored by The Perrysville Business Assn. St. Teresa Hall, St. Teresa Church. Mr. Ed Urban, Asst. Warden at the Allegheny County Jail will present, "A Re-enactment of the Biddle Brothers Ride Through Perrysville." Information: John Wersing at 412-367-3080.

NHG MAY 21 MEETING

Know Migration Trails to Trace Your Ancestors

The importance of knowing migration trails in tracing your ancestors will be the subject of the presentation at our May meeting. The speaker will be Elissa Scalise Powell, CGRS.

Using her Ohio ancestors as an example, Lissa will illustrate how knowing the paths they took when passing through Pennsylvania may provide you with clues as to where to look for new information about them.

The various ethnic groups such as Germans, Scots-Irish, English, Irish and Welsh moved west through Pennsylvania for many reasons. And, in doing so, they left behind clues in the areas they passed through. They followed Forbes Road and the National Road (now Route 40) in their westward push to find new opportunities for land, jobs, and family connections. Some men were rewarded with land for military service, and some had a pioneering spirit.

No matter what drove them, they were naturalized and married in places they may not have settled. Finding these records can be difficult unless one knows their migration path, and the laws and customs of the time. Internet resources will also be presented where appropriate.

Change in May Program

A date conflict arose for Rev. Jeff Robin, who was originally scheduled to discuss the W. PA United Methodist Archives at our May meeting. We are attempting to reschedule his presentation at a future date. Watch the newsletter for more information.

QUERIES

Compiled and edited by Sylvan Kretz, Query Editor

EDGAR, KANLINE, PAUL, All Allegheny County, PA. **McDONALD**, Allegheny County, PA and Athens County, OH. Contact: **Pat Rivet, 320 W. Neshannock Ave., New Wilmington, PA 1642-1009**

RICHARDSON, WELSH, Emsworth, PA. **APPLEGATE**, Allegheny City (N. S. Pittsburgh), PA. Contact: **William Pennell, 8636 E. Barkhurst Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4116**

MILLER, Mary, 9th Ward, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact: **James Mooney, 461 Woodland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-3776**

McELHINNY, DEVLIN, McGOWAN, COVERT, ULERY, ROSS, ROBERTS. Contact: **Mildred McElhinny, 755 Brownsdale Road, Evans City, PA 16033**

PINCHOT, Beaver and Clearfield Counties, PA. Contact: **Hester Keown, RR 2, Box 172, Reynoldsville, PA 15851-9764**

COST OF RAISING A CHILD

The following is from the PA-Allegheny Mail list

McDonald Record-Outlook

5 August 1938

An insurance company estimates that a child costs about \$6,150. This states a writer in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, includes birth and expense until he is eighteen years old. This total is reached by adding to the initial "cost of being born", estimated at \$250, the sums of \$2,500 for food, \$1,620 for rent, reckoning the share of the child as one-sixth of the total so expended; \$300 for fuel and light, \$351 for furniture and household maintenance, \$144 for first cost of installation of the home and for clothing, \$912 for a boy and \$1,002 for a girl.

GENEALOGY HINTS

The following are from "Ancestry Weekly Digest", March 30 and April 2, 2002.

Saving Newsletters, Messages, Etc.

S. L. Shoe

I started with the oldest, rereading the newsletter. If I found an article that I considered to be valuable, yet I wasn't quite ready to start on that area of my research, I printed it out [if in e-mail] and filed it in a loose-leaf notebook. Using dividers to separate the different newsletters by name. I then made up an index log, enter the article name, author, date and where it was from.

This way I have a quick reference book handy and I am no longer searching through dozens of newsletters looking for that article I know I read.

Another section in the notebook is for items post-printed from Message Boards. I keep them in the same notebook, until I verify the relationship, then they can be moved to the correct family folder. This way, I can keep unverified information out of family folders. If the person is not related, I can just throw away the post. If the person is related, I then am able to contact that person and exchange information without any problems. This also gives me the option to check the Message Boards for posts from the same person under different surnames that may also be related.

The last thing I keep in this notebook is a list of all my posts to message boards. By doing that, I know what and when I posted queries. This makes it easier to repost if needed, or to update a post with further information. It also makes sure that I remember when and what was posted.

This notebook sits next to my computer for easy access and quick lookups.

2003 NOMINATIONS OPEN

Elissa Powell, NHG President, has announced that nominations for next year's officers are now open and that Tom Wiley will be chairman of the Nominating Committee.

The by-laws call for annual nominations for and election of president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. They serve from August through July and are limited to two consecutive one-year terms.

The Nominating Committee will announce at least one nominee for each elective position to the membership at the June meeting. Nominees will also be listed on a ballot in the June newsletter. Ballots will also be available at the June meeting or by mail in by July 15 to the North Hills Genealogists at the address given on the front page of the newsletter.

Opportunity will be given for additional nominations to be written in on the ballots. But, please, before nominating a member for an officer position, be sure to obtain their permission to do so.

All members are encouraged to serve on the board of directors and become officers of the North Hills Genealogists. The NHG Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria of UPMC Passavant Hospital. The meeting usually lasts an hour. The president prepares an agenda and presides at the meeting. The vice-president may be asked to preside in the absence of the president. The secretary keeps minutes of the board meetings and presents them for approval at the next board meeting. The treasurer reports any changes in the financial status at each meeting and writes a few checks each month. NHG uses the Quicken software program and it would be helpful if the new treasurer was familiar with this software.

Here is your opportunity to serve your genealogy organization. Please talk to Tom Wiley or another of our current board members if you have any questions or want to recommend someone for a position, or want to be a candidate yourself.

An organization survives because of the participation of its members. Help NHG continue in its work.

THE PITTSBURGH CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS FAIR JUNE 22-23, 2002

NHG has been invited to participate in the Fourth Annual Civil War Soldiers Fair in June.

We can have an informational table where we can publicize our organization and also sell our cemetery book and the new Beginner's Packet.

In order to do this, we need volunteers who would be able to spend a few hours at our table on either Saturday or Sunday.

Last year over 1,000 people attended during this 2 day event. If you've never gone to the Soldiers Fair, this would be a chance to see the living historians, crafters, speakers and learn more about the Civil War in this area. Also, Abe and Mary Lincoln usually stop by for a visit.

If you can volunteer some time, please see any Board member or send an e-mail to pioneerbook@juno.com.

Here's your chance to help get out the word on all that NHG has to offer and to learn some history about the Civil War at the same time.

**FLOOR: The place for storing your priceless
genealogy records.**

IT'S HERE! THE 1930 CENSUS HAS BEEN RELEASED

The long wait (72 years) is over! The 1930 census was released by the National Archives on April 1, 2002. This census covers a very important time in the history of America -- the early part of the Depression.

Some of the instructions to the enumerators before taking this census are interesting and shed some light on how information was recorded.

The definition of a dwelling place was "A dwelling house, for census purposes, is a place in which at the time of the census, one or more persons regularly sleep. It need not be a house in the usual sense of the word but may be a room in a factory or store or office building, a loft over a stable, a boat, a tent, a freight car or the like." The definition of a family is also interesting "it means a group of persons living together in the same dwelling place may or may not be related by ties of kinship.... The census family may likewise consist of a single person." For persons born in West Virginia, North Dakota, South Dakota and Oklahoma, the following instructions were given: "... should be reported as so born, although at the time of his birth the particular region may have had a different name."

The instructions regarding employment status were also quite detailed. For instance, employment on a farm was handled as follows. A *farmer* is defined as one who is in charge of a farm even though he may not own the property. However, a *farm manager* or *overseer* is one who manages a farm for wages or salary. A worker on a farm who is not the manager or overseer is a *farm laborer*. If children are working for their parents on the farm they were to be listed as *farm labor* and in the next column as *home farm*.

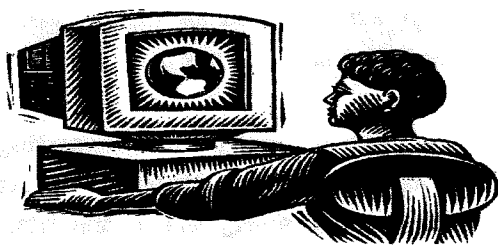
But, children who worked as farm laborers for others were listed as *working out*.

The instructions were precise regarding who was to be listed as living at home on April 1, 1930. Traditionally everyone in the household would be enumerated and if anyone was away they should be enumerated where they lived, even if they were there only temporarily. College students were, however, to be enumerated at their homes, but student nurses were to be counted where they were being trained.

With the Great Depression just starting one potentially fascinating schedule is the Unemployment Schedule. This schedule lists the name "of each person who *usually* works at a gainful occupation but did not work yesterday (or on the last regular working day). It also listed the reason a person was not working -- sickness, laid off, etc. Whether this schedule survived is uncertain.

Unfortunately, unlike the 1900 and 1920 census, only a very few states have been indexed and most of these were in the south. So, if your ancestors did not live in one of these states you will need to have a pretty good idea of where they lived at that time. One way of determining this is to use the City Directories for the area where you think they lived. Of course, even with this information you will still need to know the Enumeration District in order to know what roll of film to view. In order to help in determining what ED you need to look at, check out these two websites: Obtaining EDs for the 1930 Census in One Step (Large Cities) at: <http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census> and the 1930 Census Microfilm Locator at <http://1930census.archives.gov>.

Carnegie Library expects to have their film by mid-July.



WEB WANDERINGS

(Note: all start with <http://www> unless otherwise noted)

Do you have a favorite website? Is there a specific place you would like to find a website for? If so, please send a note to the editor at the address on the front or by e-mail at DJBooth@worldnet.att.net.

This month we will feature websites for the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Carpathian Rus

Carpatho-Rusyn Genealogy Web Site
rusyn.com

Cyndi's List - Czech & Slovakia
cyndislist.com/czech.html

Czech Gen Wen
rootsweb.com/~czewgw

Slovak GenWeb
rootsweb.com/~svkwgw

Slovakia.org
slovakia.org

Czech Republic Mailing Lists
rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_country_country-cze.html

Slovakia Mailing Lists
rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_country-slo.html

The Carpathian Connection
tccerb.oth

LAND PATENTS SITE UP AND RUNNING

Several months ago we advised that because of a federal court order, all US Department of the Interior websites had been closed down due to concerns about security issues. One of the most popular one for genealogists is back online. The Official Federal Land Patent Records site at <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov> is once again available for searching 2 million land title records from 1820 to 1908. Frequent users may notice a new look and improved features, including faster page loads, simpler navigation, streamlined searches, more data fields and a printer-friendly results page.

GENFORUM NOW REQUIRES REGISTRATION

Before you post that next query on one of the gazillion GenForum message boards at <http://genforum.genealogy.com>, you'll need to register your name and contact information with Genealogy.com. If you already have an account with Genealogy.com through one of its subscription databases, you can log in using the same name and password. If not, it's easy and free to sign in. Visit http://www.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/gcom_register.cgi where you'll fill in your name, address, e-mail address and other contact details. While it may seem like a pain, this new system has a couple of perks. You can now decide whether you want other GenForum visitors to see your e-mail address along with your account number and if you change your e-mail address, you can update your account and all your previously posted messages will be automatically updated. For more information on these changes see: <http://genforum.genealogy.com/gflogin.html>.

ALLEGHENY ARSENAL

The following information was provided by Jim Wudarczyk,
Lawrenceville Historical Society

While the Allegheny Arsenal was of major military importance, its role has been sadly neglected in the annals of local history. Equally sad is the fact that today only a few vestiges of its former glory remain to remind us of our heritage.

With the closing of Fort Lafayette, the government recognized the need to establish a new base of supplies. It was decided that the Arsenal should be near the foundries. Hence, William Barclay Foster and Colonel Abram R. Woolley were appointed by the government to choose a site for an arsenal. An initial purchase of thirty acres was made on April 9, 1814, for the sum of \$12,000 from William Foster.

The Arsenal was established in the Lawrenceville area of Pittsburgh. With subsequent purchases in 1831, 1833, 1837 and 1867 the Arsenal covered approximately 38 acres. It was bounded by the present Penn Avenue, 39th Street, 40th Street and the Allegheny River.

Benjamin Latrobe, one of the most talented architects in the country, was commissioned to design the great United States Arsenal. Six of Latrobe's elaborate drawings are housed in the Library of Congress but differences between the proposed and actual structures reveal that many of his designs were altered.

Originally the walls were much higher and capped with a black stone, but they were lowered during the 1930's as part of the WPA of Roosevelt's New Deal. Some of the stone for these walls was hauled from the quarries of the Penn Hills and Wilksburg area and delivered at a rate of 11 cents per bushel.

The history of the United States Marine Hospital in Lawrenceville can be traced to October 15, 1902, when a commission was appointed to

examine various sites offered for a Merchant Marine Hospital. This commission finally recommended the transfer to the Treasury Department of about five acres of the old Arsenal Reservation at 40th Street and Penn Avenue as a site for the hospital. Transfer of this property was authorized by an Act of Congress approved March, 1903. It was, however, not until May 7, 1904, that Secretary of War, William H. Taft, actually consummated the transfer of the property.

Interest in such medical facilities went back to March 3, 1837, when a board of Army medical officers was designated by the Secretary of War to select and recommend locations for Marine Hospitals. Earliest recommendation for the site was to be Wheeling, West Virginia, but for unknown reasons Pittsburgh was chosen for the hospital. Land was purchased in 1842 along the Ohio River below Allegheny City. Although building of the facility began in 1845, a problem with the appropriation of funds, however, interrupted work until 1849. Completion of the project took place in 1851.

In 1875 this property was sold. The building had become dilapidated, and industrial development, with its noise and air pollution in the near proximity of the hospital, made the facility unfit for medical purposes.

The Marine Hospital faced a series of problems. Although the sale price of the former facilities was \$57,554.57 and a new site was purchased for \$30,000, the Comptroller of the Treasury ruled that the balance of the sale revenues could not be used for construction purposes. Congress was petitioned for the necessary funds, but only \$7,000 was appropriated in 1881. Hence, the building was never constructed and Mercy Hospital continued to care for service patients. Other patients were cared for under contract with the Pittsburgh Infirmary, while an out-patient

office was rented at Sixth and Smithfield Streets. In 1884 the care of service patients was transferred to Mercy Hospital at a cost of 94 cents a day.

In 1891 a fire destroyed the Germania Bank. Thus, the out-patient offices were moved to the Federal Building.

When the Arsenal lands along Penn Avenue were established for the purposes of a Marine Hospital, Congress appropriated \$125,000. Secretary of the Treasury Leslie M. Shaw, however, delayed the building of the hospital on the argument that a Marine Hospital was not needed in Pittsburgh. By August 20, 1908, the differences were resolved and bids were opened. Contract for the building was awarded at \$91,188. A cornerstone was laid on December 16, 1908.

The new hospital was opened on October 22, 1910. Four patients were transferred from Mercy Hospital. Between August 1, 1915 and November 1, 1916, the Marine Hospital served as a research laboratory for the investigation of occupational diseases. During this period, the patients were moved to St. Francis Hospital. The hospital was reopened and occupied until circa 1950. Today the facilities are maintained by the Allegheny County Department of Health.

The curious combination of Colonial Revival architecture and the hipped roof give the facility an appearance of being much older than it really is.

We will be presenting more of Jim's writings on the area around the Arsenal in future issues of the Newsletter. If you have a chance, take one of his walking tours of Lawrenceville. You will find them very interesting and you will learn a great deal about that area of Pittsburgh.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY ARCHIVES

Several months ago there were several articles in the local newspapers about all the Allegheny County records that were moldering in an old warehouse on the North Side. These articles created quite an uproar in Allegheny County and even made it to various Rootsweb mailing lists and e-mail newsletters.

For those of us whose families settled in Pittsburgh in the 1800's, it was very disheartening to learn that these records were not being preserved. But, good news!!! The County has taken action and is preparing a upgraded facility for these records. There is a 5000 sq. ft. room where the most valuable of the **50,000** boxes of early records will be stored in "not just a little cubbyhole" said Sam Wilson, Allegheny County Deputy Director of Administrative Services, but a substantial space which has pros and cons to it. Funds are in the current budget for the installation of air conditioning and dehumidifiers.

We are happy to announce that Jo Henderson, NHG and WPGS member has agreed to serve as the Point of Contact for the County Records Archive Work Group of WPGS. In June, Jo and a group of volunteers will tour the facility and discuss how they can help with the preservation of this important material. If you would like to be part of this group, contact Jo at chens4th@aol.com.

A GREAT BIG THANKS to Jo for stepping up and taking the lead in this important project.

E-MAIL MEETING NOTIFICATION

To receive e-mail notifications of future NHG meetings and events send an e-mail to the following: pioneerbook@juno.com

ATTORNEY GENERAL SEEKS OUSTER OF CIVIL WAR LIBRARY OVER DECISION

From WPGS *Jots*, April 2002, Vol. 28, No. 8

The state Attorney General of Pennsylvania is seeking the ouster of the entire 10-member governing board of the Civil War Library and Museum, which wants to move a portion of its prized collection from Philadelphia, PA to Richmond, VA.

In papers filed with the Philadelphia Orphans' Court, Attorney General Mike Fisher accuses library officials of having violated their responsibility to maintain and preserve the collection.

Fisher, who filed suit last year seeking to block the removal of the collection, also said the library has not provided a list of objects slated for removal or documentation of past loans and donations.

The Attorney General wants the court to appoint a receiver for the collection. Neither side in the dispute could recall the state ever seeking removal of an entire nonprofit board.

Several Philadelphia organizations have announced a concerted effort to make Philadelphia a destination city for people interested in the Civil War, including creation of a Center for Civil War Studies.

The financially distressed museum - founded in Philadelphia in 1888 - contains more than 13,000 books, 7,000 photographs and 3,000 artifacts, including the first John Wilkes Booth wanted poster, Jefferson Davis' smoking jacket, casts of Lincoln's face and hands, and the stuffed head of Gen. George Meade's horse, Old Baldy.

Scholarly and Civil War buffs were furious last year when the library announced a plan to move

a substantial part of its holdings to the heart of the old Confederacy. The plan also drew fire from the descendants of the Union officers who donated almost all of the library's holdings.

(*The Herald*, 52 South Dock St., Sharon, PA 16146, March 7, 2002)

NHG MEMBERS

We are happy to announce that Carol Jo Henderson and Irene Dinning have agreed to be the new Chairs for the next volume of the NHG cemetery books. They will be looking for volunteers to help with readings, proofing, etc. If you helped in the past, they are hoping you will help with the next book. A **BIG** thank you to Ginny Skander for all her work on the first and second cemetery books. She is working on getting the current book ready for the printer.

Kay Santa, Board Secretary, has been spending a lot of time lately updating and typing the new Beginner's Packet. She has included a lot of new and updated information to make this packet very helpful to beginners, and "old-timers", alike. Look for the new packet at the meetings. If you bought the previous edition, you might want to get a copy of the updated one. You may find out about sources, etc. that you never knew about.

Thanks Kay. Job well done!!!

How can you help NHG? Volunteer to help with cemetery readings, volunteer to help at the Soldier's Fair, write an article for the newsletter (the Editor would **greatly** appreciate that), run for a Board office. The opportunities are endless. Let's hear from you.

Next Meeting May 21, 2002

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

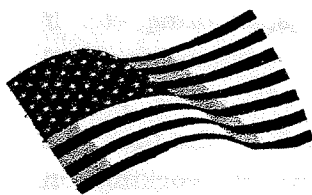
C/O Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL



KNOW MIGRATION TRAILS TO TRACE YOUR ANCESTORS

Elissa Scalise Powell, CGRS

May 21, 2002

7:00 pm

SPRING RESEARCH TRIP TO WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAY 18, 2002

NHG is planning its annual Spring research trip to Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland on May 18.

Western Reserve Historical Society was founded in 1867 to preserve and present the history of all the people of northeast Ohio. Today it is the largest privately supported regional historical society in the nation.

Their holdings include all federal census records from 1790-1920, many Ohio sources, Revolutionary War pension applications and

bounty land records, NY Passenger lists 1820-1841, Baltimore lists 1820-1879, Philadelphia 1800-1819, San Francisco 1850-1875 and many more records.

Admission is \$7.50 for adults, \$6.50 for seniors. Parking available on site. Snack room or brown bag it. Car pool or drive yourself. Don't miss this great research opportunity.

North Hills Genealogists is a group of people who share an interest in genealogy and meet to share their knowledge. NHG does NOT maintain a library and does NOT do research for others. An individual member may choose to handle research requests, but NHG will not be responsible for the quality of the work performed or any fees charged.